

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on **January 22, 1999** at  
8:03 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Chris Christiaens (D)  
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)  
Rep. Red Menahan (D)  
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Arnie Mohl, Vice Chairman (R)

**Members Absent:** Rep. Stan Fisher (R)

**Staff Present:** Lorene Thorson, Legislative Branch  
Shirley Moore, OBPP  
Linsey Mortensen, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s): Department of Labor  
-Workers' Compensation  
Court  
-Job Service Division

**EXHIBIT(jih17a01) EXHIBIT(jih17a02)**

#### HEARING ON WORKERS COMPENSATION COURT

**Informational Testimony:** **EXHIBIT(jih17a03)**

**Mike McCarter**, workers' compensation judge, talked about how the  
court operates, the workload of the court, and the revised budget  
proposal. **EXHIBIT(jih17a04)**

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**{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.1 - 32.2}{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 7.2}**

**Proponents:** Al Smith, representing MT Trial Lawyers supporting the Workers' Compensation Court; Michelle Fairclough, president of MT Association of Workers' Compensation Adjusters; David Slovach, lawyer in Great Falls. **EXHIBIT(jih17a05)**

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 18.2 - 24.2}**

Leo Ward, claims council for MT school groups authority;

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 24.2 - 26.5}**

Nancy Butler, representing the state fund; George Wood, secretary of the MT Self-Insurers Association; Jacqueline Lenmark, American Insurers Association.

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 26.5 - 31}**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked who does the mediation. Judge McCarter stated that the mediation is done at the department. He also made some comments about mediation. SEN. CHRISTIAENS asked if there would be money to transfer into court. Judge McCarter stated that would be an idea, although, there would be more of a case load for the mediators.

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 8.2 - 10.3}**

CHAIRMAN VICK asked what savings the Employee Relations Division would see if the court assumes duties as a result of HJR10.

Jerry Keck explained.

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.3 - 12.4}**

REP. MENAHAN asked why vacancy savings reductions were made above the executive's vacancy savings. Judge McCarter stated the department allocated the reductions to all divisions that were supported with workers' compensation funds. He asked that the vacancy savings be restored.

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 12.4 - 15.1}**

**{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 15.1 - 17.2; discussion on lowering benefits}**

**HEARING ON JOB SERVICE DIVISION**

**Informational Testimony:** Wendy Keating, administrator of the Job Service Division, gave an overview of the division, changes made to the division, and programs implemented by the division.

**{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 23.1}**

**Apprenticeship Program:** Wendy Keating explained how it works, what is needed, and how it is funded.

**{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 23.1 - 29.6}**

**Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG):** Ms. Keating explained what kind of program it is, how it works, and how it is funded.

**{Tape : 2; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 29.6 - 32.3}{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 4.5}**

Corrections on budget items **EXHIBIT(jih17a06)**

**{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 4.5 - 6.4}**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. MOHL** asked if the federal funding for the One-Stop Workforce Development Grant will run out and what they plan to do when the funding runs out. **Wendy Keating** replied that it is just funding for the implementation for the program and they will not back fill with the general fund.

**{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 6.4 - 10.1}**

**CHAIRMAN VICK** asked **Wendy** to explain exactly how the Apprenticeship Program works.

**{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 10.1 - 12.7}**

**Mark Mackey**, supervisor for the Apprenticeship Program explained that the program does help to pay for course work materials.

**{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 12.7 - 14.3}**

**{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 25 - 32}{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 0 - 1; Comments: SEN.**

**CHRISTIAENS made comments and asked questions about the match of federal funds.}**

**{Tape : 3; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 2.9 - 4.8; Comments : Wendy Keating answered SEN. MOHL's question on the funding of the Apprenticeship Program}**

**Testimony:**

**Erik Burke**, representing the Governor's Office.

**{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 14.3 - 18.4}**

**Sue Mohr**, executive director of MT Job Finding Partnership; **Hank Hudson**, Department of Health and Human Services.

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***{Tape : 2; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 18.4 - 31.4}***

**Tom Chestnut**, principal of Eagle Nest High School in Red Rock Montana; **Tony Powell**, former student of Tom Chestnut, JMG graduate.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 2.7}***

**Donna Schulze**, parent of a student who was in the Jobs for Montana Graduates Program.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 2.7 - 7.7}***

**Lars Alstad**, JMG graduate.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 7.7 - 9.9}***

**Paul Tusk**, executive director of Glacier County Global Economic Development Organization.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 10 - 11.8}***

**Barry Reddick**, business owner in Helena; **Travis Buck**, student of Apprenticeship Program.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 11.8 - 16.1}***

**Brian Edwards**, student in apprenticeship program with Apprenticeship Program; **Ken Switzer**, representing Martel Contruction.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16.1 - 21.8}***

**Terry Quatraro**, child-care provider in Bozeman.

***{Tape : 3; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 21.8 - 25}***

Passed out 1/25/99 (pertains to these presentations)

**EXHIBIT(jih17a07) EXHIBIT(jih17a08) EXHIBIT(jih17a09)**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:40 A.M.

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REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

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LINSEY MORTENSEN, Secretary

SV/LM

**EXHIBIT** (jih17aad)